

Appl. No. 10/065,903
Amtd. dated July 04, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 08, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-4, 8, 9-12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-4, 8, 9-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannah (US 5,784,581) in view of Shires (US 5,167,028).

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Response:

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Each of these claims now contains the limitation that the master computer is capable of directly accessing data located on the portable storage device and storage apparatuses of the first 10 slave computer. Claims 2-3 and 10-11 have been similarly amended to state that the master computer is capable of directly accessing data located on the second slave computer and an external storage apparatus. These amendments are fully supported in the specification in paragraph [0021], lines 4-13, and in paragraph [0024], lines 9-16. No new matter is added through these amendments.

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The independent claims are amended to emphasize the fact that the master computer is able to directly access memory located on the storage apparatuses of the first slave computer since the master computer maps the storage apparatuses located on the first slave computer as USB storage devices.

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On the other hand, neither Hannah nor Shires teaches this limitation. Hannah teaches in Fig.4 connecting an upstream device to a peripheral device 34 and connecting a downstream device to the peripheral device 34. However, Hannah does not teach that the upstream device is able to directly access data stored on the downstream device.

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Shires teaches in Fig.1 a multiprocessor system 10 containing a two processors and three memories. A master processor 12 can access its own dedicated master memory 20

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and a shared memory 24, whereas a slave processor 16 can access its own dedicated slave memory 22 and the shared memory 24. The shared memory 24 cannot be considered part of either a master computer or a slave computer, and is more analogous to the non-volatile memory of the portable storage device, which connects the master and slave

5 computers of the present invention. Shires teaches that the master processor 12 can only access the dedicated master memory 20 and the shared memory 24, and is not capable of directly accessing the dedicated slave memory 22. Instead, data from the dedicated slave memory 22 must first be copied to the shared memory 24 before the master processor 12 can access it.

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Therefore, neither Hannah nor Shires, either alone or in combination, teach the limitation of the amended claims 1 and 9 in which the master computer is capable of directly accessing data located on the first slave computer. Claims 2-4, 8, 10-12, and 16 are dependent on the amended claims 1 and 9, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are 15 allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-4, 8, 9-12, and 16 is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannah (US 5,784,581) and Shires (US 5,167,028), and further in view of Smith et al (US 20 6,633,933).

Response:

Claims 5 and 13 are dependent on claims 1 and 9, respectively, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 5 and 13 is respectfully 25 requested.

3. Rejection of claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

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Hannah (US 5,784,581) and Shires (US 5,167,028), and further in view of Knight et al. (US 2003/0163587).

Response:

5 Claims 6 and 14 are dependent on claims 1 and 9, respectively, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 6 and 14 is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

10 Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannah (US 5,784,581) and Shires (US 5,167,028), and further in view of Deng et al. (US 6,829,672).

Response:

15 Claims 7 and 15 are dependent on claims 1 and 9, respectively, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 7 and 15 is respectfully requested.

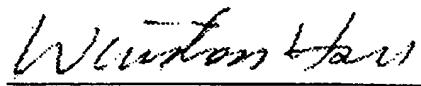
5. Introduction to new claims 17-18:

20 New claims 17 and 18 are added to specify that the master computer is capable of accessing data located on any storage apparatuses of the first slave computer. This limitation is supported in the last line of paragraph [0024] of the specification. No new matter is added. On the other hand, neither Hannah nor Shires teach that a master computer is able to access all storage apparatuses of a slave computer. Acceptance of new 25 claims 17-18 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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